

REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

DELIVERING MAJOR PROGRAMMES OF WORK AND BIDS FOR FUNDING – PLACE DEPARTMENT

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek Policy Committee for approval to the provision of interim funding for the period April 2021 to September 2021 to support the continued delivery of major programmes of work and the development of new bids for external funding through the Place Department.

Information

2. In December 2018 Policy Committee received a report that established a flexible pool of resource to support the delivery of a significant number of major capital projects within the Place Department at that time. The report established a budget of £650k for the full financial years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021, and a £100k for 2018-2019. The funding has been used to support project development and programme management, as well as to fund the additional pressures that these projects create on corporate services such as legal, finance and communication.
3. With this funding the County Council has been able to support £56.8m of investment in the County including; £40m in the Gedling Access Road, £13.6m of infrastructure in the developments at Lindhurst, Mansfield and Top Wighay, Hucknall, £3.2m Homes England funding for sites at Lowmoor Road and Cauldwell Road. As reported at the COVID-19 Resilience, Recovery and Renewal Committee, the Place Department has also secured an additional £11m of investment over the last 3 months to support the Economic Recovery Action Plan.
4. The funding outlined in the 2018 report will finish at the end of March 2021, however there is a continuing need to deliver the initiatives that were highlighted in that report as well as to pursue additional investment opportunities and drive growth within the County and the wider East Midlands. It is especially important that the Council puts itself in the best position possible to capitalise from new Government initiatives and funding opportunities that are being announced, to protect its economy from the impact of the Covid -19 pandemic.
5. Continued delivery of a number of highprofile programmes and those that the Council is looking to bid for will place increased demands on organisational capacity. Furthermore, the Department is also being asked to either support or drive major partner initiatives such as the East Midlands Freeport.
6. Without the funding support highlighted in this report there is a risk that existing resource will need to be diverted or taken away from strategically significant projects such as the Council plans for Top Wighay, and that the Council will not have the capacity to bid for future opportunities such as the UK Levelling Up and Shared Prosperity Funds.

7. Corporate Services will also continue to have high levels of demand as a result of the Council programmes and bids, specifically Legal, Finance and Communications. Whilst funding to support a usual level of capital projects is allocated from existing budgets, the scale and complexity of the additional major projects work will continue to require additional resource. This support is included in the request for interim funding.
8. It is important to note that the Place Department will continue to flex to meet the level of demand within the projects and bids, rather than increasing the permanent staffing establishment and budget. Due to the initiative needing experienced and specific technical support such as with the Council housing and regeneration initiatives, this will be either tendered for separately or provided via Arc. This will ensure appropriately skilled individuals are available when required and reduce the risk/costs to the organisation of increasing the permanent establishment to support these peaks in delivery.
9. It is requested that contingency funding of up to £430k be made available for the first six months of the financial year 2021/22. A breakdown of the funding is detailed in the table below;

Table 1. Breakdown of Funding

Requirement	£s
Corporate Services – Finance, Comms, Legal	£127k
Arc Regeneration	£50k
Housing Bid Development including preparation of wider Social Housing Decarbonisation Funds	£65k
Investment and Growth Development	£188k
TOTAL	£430k

10. The report requests this funding on the basis that there will be an election in May 2021 and shortly thereafter the administration will set new priorities for the Department. It is currently envisaged that a further report will be brought to Policy Committee in September 2021 outlining the approach to delivering major projects and bids for funding, and to cover the term of the new administration.

Other Options Considered

11. To not approve the additional resource required would impact on the delivery of major projects and investment into the County’s economy. Without this capacity the organisation would run the risk of delivery failure with significant associated reputational damage and would fail to capitalise on Government opportunities.

Reason for Recommendations

12. The proposed resource request supports the Council strategic plans: Council Plan 2017-2021, the COVID-19 crisis Economic Recovery Action Plan 2020 to 2022. Future plans

will be subject to the new Council Administration priorities, hence the recommendation is to only fund from the period April 2021 to September 2021. A further report outlining the approach to delivering major projects and bids for funding under the new Administration will be brought to Policy Committee in September 2021.

Statutory and Policy Implications

13. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

14. It is requested that contingency funding of £430k is made available to cover the period April 2021 until September 2021.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Policy Committee:

- 1) Approves up to a maximum of £430,000 to support the delivery of major projects for the period 1 April 2021 to 30 September 2021.
- 2) Agrees that a request should be submitted to the Finance and Major Contracts Management Committee for an allocation of up to £430,000 from contingency to fund the costs of major projects during this period.

COUNCILLOR MRS KAY CUTTS MBE Leader of the Council

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Matthew Neal, Investment and Growth.

Constitutional Comments (EP 18/02/2021)

15. The recommendation falls within the remit of the Policy Committee by virtue of its terms of reference.

Financial Comments (RWK 18/02/2021)

16. The report proposes additional spending of £430,000 to support the delivery of major projects and bids for funding. A request for an allocation from contingency is to be submitted to the Finance and Major Contracts Management Committee.

Background Papers and Published Documents

- [Report to Policy Committee, 19th December 2018, Agenda Item 12 “*Delivering and assuring Major Programmes of Work – Place Department*”](#)

Electoral Divisions and Members Affected

- All